(b) if so, what are the details of the contract;

(c) whether tenders were invited for this contract;

(d) if so, what is the number of tenders received and whether any Indian firm ha dalso participated in the tender; and

(e) what are the reasons for rejecting other tenders, including the Indian ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (e) As one of the measures of improvement of service, the management decided to enage consultants to advise on continental cuisine. For this purpose, proposals from Ecole Hoteliere Lausanne Institute for Tourism and Hotel Management, Salzburg and also M/s. Steigenberger were considered. On the basis of their long experience in airline catering, M/s. Steigenberger were given the contract as consultants. Engaging Indian consultancy services on continental cuisine was not considered appropriate.

Casual labourers in the Railways

3218. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of casual labourers working at present in all the Railway Departments;

(b) what is the number of those casual labourers who have been working for the last five years;

(c) what is the number of those casual labourers who have put in a service of five years and have been made regular; and

(d) what is the number of posts category-wise which are lying vacant in all the Railway Departments, as on Ist September, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Infodmation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

New Developments in South Africa

3219. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of new disturbing developments in South Africa; and

(b) what is Government's reaction to the new restrictions on political opposition announced by the South African Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) The South African Government has banned the activities of 17 opposition groups. Strict press censorship remains in force. Under the continuing emergency the authorities have intensified their repression of the non-white majority. Government have consistently condemned these actions by the racist regime and have actively sought to mobilise world public opinion to bring pressure to bear on the regime with a view to dismantling apartheid and estabilishing a democratic polity based on majority rule.

Allotment of Book Counter Partnership contract of unemployed Graduates at New Delhi Railway Station

3220. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a number of suggestion from some M.Ps that the Book Counter Tables & Trolleys of M/s. Gulab Singh & Sons, should be allotted as per policy to the Existing Contractor of unemployed Graduates Partnership firm at New Delhi Station; and